

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER VISITS DENMARK

SUMMARY. SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER FAELLDIN PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO DENMARK MARCH 22 AND 23. HE IMPRESSED THE DANES AS AN HONEST, GOOD MAN AND AN ABLE POLITICIAN. HIS SUPPORT FOR CONDEMNATION OF VIOLATORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EASTERN EUROPE WAS NOTED BY THE DANES AS A MARKED CHANGE FROM THE ATTITUDE OF HIS PREDECESSOR. END SUMMARY.

1. SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER THORBJOERN FAELLDIN AND HIS WIFE PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO DENMARK MARCH 22-23, THE FIRST SUCH VISIT BY A SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER IN SIX YEARS. FAELLDIN MET TWICE WITH PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN, HAD LUNCH WITH QUEEN MARGRETHE AT AMALIENBORG, AND ATTENDED A STATE DINNER GIVEN BY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT.

2. AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE DANISH-SWEDISH COOPERATION ON EXPLOITATION OF NORTH SEA NATURAL GAS, IN WHICH NORWAY WOULD PARTICIPATE, BALTIC FISHING RIGHTS AND NORDIC COOPERATION IN GENERAL.

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3. AT THE OFFICIAL DINNER MARCH 22, FAELLDIN PRAISED DENMARK'S ROLE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE CONTINENT AND SCANDINAVIA AND STRESSED THAT DENMARK'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND THE EC WAS NOT AN OBSTACLE TO THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID: "I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE OUR INTERET IN

AND GRATITUDE OVER THE EXCELLENT MANNER IN WHICH DENMARK FULFILLS ITS HISTORICAL MISSION AS NORDIC CONTACT TO THE CONTINENT."

4. FAELLDIN WAS EXPOSED TO DANISH CONCERN OVER THE BARSEBAECK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN SWEDEN, ABOUT 20 KILOMETERS FROM COPENHAGEN. FAELLDIN SAID THE PLANT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BUILT SO CLOSE TO LARGE INHABITED AREAS IF THE DANGERS HAD BEEN RECOGNIZED WHEN THE PLANT WAS BEGUN. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE AMERICAN OPPOENT OF NUCLEAR POWER, DEAN ABRAHAMSON, HAD BEEN INVITED TO ASSIST THE SWEDISH ENERGY COMMISSION IN ITS WORK, AND HAD ACCEPTED.

5. A DANISH FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE TOLD US THAT FAELLDIN HAD EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY EASTERN BLOC STATES WHENEVER THEY OCCUR A MARKED CHANGE FROM THE POSITION OF HIS PREDECESSOR. FAELLDIN REPORTEDLY DID NOT CONSIDER THE CRITICISM EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN ANY SENSE AN OVERREACTION. WE WERE TOLD THE VISIT WENT SMOOTHLY AND THAT, ALTHOUGH HIS PERSONAL HABITS STRUCK THE DANES AS CURIOUS, FAELLDIN IMPRESSED THE DANES AS A MAN WITH SOLID COMMON SENSE WITH WHOM THEY COULD WORK. THEY CALLED HIM AN "UNPOLISHED DIAMOND." HE WAS INFORMAL, WILLING TO SPEAK TO ANYONE AND OPEN IN HIS RESPONES TO QUESTIONS, ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES "WOOLY" IN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY.

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Message Attributes

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